

Message Text

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AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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STATE FOR CU/EE, SOV; USIA FOR IEU

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TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJ: VISIT OF MGU RECTOR AND DELEGATION

REF: A. STATE 210951 B. MOSCOW 17436

1. EMBASSY OBJECTIVE FOR MGU DELEGATION IS THAT KHOKLOV AND PARTY WILL CONCLUDE VISIT BELIEVING THAT THEIR ASPIRATIONS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF MGU HAVE MUCH IN COMMON WITH U.S. EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES AND TECHNIQUES AND THAT THE METHODS FOR ACHIEVING MGU ASPIRATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE CONTINUING CLOSE CONTACTS WITH AMERICAN ACADEMIC COMMUNITY. AS STATED IN ORIGINAL PROPOSAL OF NOVEMBER, 1974 (REFTEL B), WE HOPE REGULAR HIGH-LEVEL CONTACTS WILL DEVELOP AND THAT VISIT WILL PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE WORKING-LEVEL IDEAS FOR FUTURE EXCHANGES AND LONG-RANGE TIES BETWEEN AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS AND MGU.

2. KHOKLOV'S LETTER AND PREVIOUS EMBASSY CALLS HAVE CONVEYED PROGRAMMING REQUESTS WHICH WILL NOT BE REPEATED THIS MESSAGE. WORTH SPECIAL EMPHASIS, HOWEVER, ARE ALL ASPECTS OF UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT, SOURCES AND ADMINISTRATION OF FINANCES, PURPOSE AND DESIGN OF NEW CONSTRUCTION, AND ORGANIZATION OF UNIVERSITY KNOWLEDGE BANK, INCLUDING COMPUTER SYSTEMS AND LIBRARIES.

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EDGE BANK, INCLUDING COMPUTER SYSTEMS AND LIBRARIES.

3. KHOKLOV IS NOW SERIOUSLY INVOLVED IN THINKING OUT THE SHAPE OF MGU AND OTHER TRAINING GROUNDS OF SOVIET EDUCATED ELITE IN 21ST CENTURY. AS NOTED AFTER AMBASSADOR'S CALL LAST MARCH (MOSCOW 3994), MGU HAS A GUGE AREA WEST OF PRESENT CAMPUS FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION. ALL DOWNTOWN DEPARTMENTS WILL MOVE TO LENIN HILLS AND THE "21ST CENTURY" CANPUS WILL TAKE SHAPE THERE JUST BEYOND EXISTING STALINIST WEDDING-CAKE MONUMENT. PARTICIPATION IN DELEGATION OF MGU'S CHIEF BUILDING ENGINEER (EPSTEIN) IS RELATED DIRECTLY TO THESE FUTURE PLANS. IF, AS MANY AMERICAN EDUCATORS AND ARCHITECTS BELIEVE, DESIGN OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AFFECTS THOUGHTS THAT TAKE PLACE THERE, THIS IS CONCRETE OPPORTUNITY TO RELATE AMERICAN TO FUTURE SOVIET EDUCATION.

4. HERE ARE OTHER EUDCATIONAL MATTERS ON KHOKLOV'S MIND NOW, AS GLEANED FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM AND ASSOCIATES AND FROM HITS PUBLIC STATEMENTS:

(A) TYING UNIVERSITY EDUCATION MORE CLOSELY TO NEEDS OF THE ECONOMY; RELATING SOCIETY'S JOB REQUIREMENTS TO HIGHER EDUCATION. MGU LEADERS LEARNED TO THEIR SURPRISE AT RECENT UNIVERSITIES CONFERENCE THAT THIS IS PROBLEM OF CAPITALIST WORLD TOO.

(B) CONTINUING EDUCATION; HOW TO UPDATE A SPECIALIST'S SKILLS THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER.

(C) MAKING EDUCATION AVAILABLE TO BROADER STRATA OF SOCIETY. KHOKLOV BELIEVES WORKER OF FUTURE WILL NEED MUCH HIGHER LEVEL OF SKILL TRAINING.

(D) PROVIDING FUNDAMENTAL EDUCATION TO ENCOURAGE CREATIVE THINKING SO THAT GRADUATE IN FUTURE CAN THINK FOR HIMSELF AND ADAPT TO FAST-CHANGING WORLD TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION. KHOKLOV REALIZES DAY OF NARROWLY-TRAINED ENGINEER MENTALITY IS JUST ABOUT OVER IF USSR IS TO COPE WITH 21ST CENTURY.

(E) BROADENING SCIENTIFIC TRAINING BY INCLUSION IN EDUCATIONS OF MORALS, CLUTURE, AND GENERAL HUMANISTIC SUBJECTS.

(F) DEVELOPING TECHNICAL AIDS WHICH SOMEHOW MAKE THE LEARNING PROCESS FASTER AND REDUCE STUDENT BORE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DOM. THIS IS A PANACEA MANY SOVIET EDUCATORS SEEK.

5. POINTS (D) AND (E), RELATING TO HELPING A STUDENT LEARN TO THINK FOR HIMSELF AND HAVE OPINIONS, OBVIOUSLY FORM ONE AREA WHERE THE MGU DELEGATION WILL FIND MUCH OF INTEREST IN THE US. SOVIET HIGHER SCHOOLS DEFINITELY HAVE ENTERED AN ERA WHERE ECONOMIC AND NATIONAL GOALS, AND THE CONSEQUENT DEMAND FOR CREATIVE

EDUCATION, VIE WITH THE NEED TO MAINTAIN EDEOLOGICAL CONFORMITY. AT PRESENT SOVIETS ARE TRYING TO HAVE IT BOTH WAYS, BUT THE THRUST IS STRONG FOR FURTHER OPENING UP THE LEARNING PROCESS TO ACHIEVE NATIONAL GOALS. IT IS DOUBTFUL SOVIETS CAN PREDICT WHERE THIS WILL LEAD. IN ANY CASE, DELEGATION SHOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY OBSERVE ROLE OF HUMANITIES IN US SCIENTIFIC TRAINING AND OUR METHODS AND GOALS IN ENCOURAGING STUDENT CREATIVITY. DEPT. AWARE OF NEED FOR DISCRETION IN HANDLING THIS POINT.

6. DELEGATION WOULD NOT OBJECT TO SUBSTANTIVE WASHINGTON PROGRAM AT END OF TRIP. HOWEVER BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY RICHARDSON TO RECEIVE AT START OF TRIP IF POSSIBLE. KELAY OR ADJUSTMENT OF SCHDULE NOT PRACTICAL BECAUSE OF OTHER COMMITMENTS. KHOKLOV WILL BE TAKING PART ACADEMY CELEBRATIONS IMMEDIATELY BEFORE TRIP.

7. AUTO FACTORY VISIT WOULD BE BEST AT BEGINNING SINCE SUBSTANTIVE PRESSURES WILL INCREASE AS TRIP PROGRESSES.

8. DELEGATION, AS MENTIONED REFTTEL B, PREFERS SERIOUS PROFESSIONAL VISIT WITH MINIMUM PROTOCOL. HOWEVER IF ANY SPEECHES, BRIEF REMARKS, PRESS CONFERENCES ARE LIKELY TO COME UP, THEY DESIRE ADVANCE NOTICE TO ALLOW PREPARATION.

10. DELEGATION RELIES ON US ADVICE FOR ANY NON-PROFESSIONAL OR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES. THEY VOLUNTEERED REQUEST FOR DISNEYLAND AND PERHAPS HOLLYWOOD, THOUGH EMBASSY SUGGESTS QUIET SOCIAL OCCASION WITH UNIVERSITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEADERS IN AREA WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO LATTER. EVENING CLUTURAL PROGRAMS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE, INCLUDING LIGHT MUSIC AND PERHAPS JAZZ. MEMBERS SHOULD BE CONSULTED FOR SPECIFIC CHOICES AMONG AVAILABLE EVENTS.

10. KHOKLOV IS AVID SKIER, MOUNTAIN TRAMPER, AND SWIMMER. A WEEKEND OR EARLY MORNING SWIM, AT POOL OR BEACH, WOULD BE GOOD RECREATION OPPORTUNITY, BUT HE WOULD NOT WISH TAKE TIME FROM PROFESSIONAL SCHEDULE. HE HAS ENJOYED EARLY SWIMS IN PREVIOUS VISITS TO CUBA AND EGYPT. FYI: HIS PRE-DEPARTURE SCHEDULE SUGGESTS HE WILL BE FAIRLY TIRED ON ARRIVAL IN US. IT WOULD BE IDEAL IF ONE OR TWO OF PREFESSIONAL CONTACTS COULD TAKE PLACE IN RELAXED NATURAL SETTING, E.G., SEASIDE OR BOAT.

11. NEW YORK UNIVERSITY IN MGU LETTER REFERS TO
SUNY AND CHANCELLOR BOYER.

12. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE RETURN
US VISIT AT END OF PROGRAM. US VISIT GOALS SHOULD
BE AS SPECIFIC AS POSSIBLE, E.G. TO WORK OUT DETAILS
OF COOPERATION IN AGREED FIELDS. LIKELY FORMAT
FOR MGU-AMERICAN COOPERATION MIGHT BE SEVERAL SEPARATE
RELATIONSHIPS WITH US INSTITUTIONS ACCORDING TO MUTUAL
STRENGTHS IN DIFFERENT FIELDS, RATHER THAN COMPRE-
HENSIVE AGREEMENT WITH ONE INSTITUTION. THIS SUG-
GESTS THAT US DELEGATION MIGHT CONSIST OF MOSTLY
DEPARTMENT HEADS OR SPECIALISTS RATHER THAN PRESIDENTS.
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